

SAC 535

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [redacted]

TOPIC Military Information from the Templin Troop Training Grounds

EVALUATION see below

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DATE OF CONTENT 26 October to 19 November 1953

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DATE PREPARED 8 December 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- [redacted] 1. On 19 November 1953, Camp Xammenburg at the Templin troop training grounds was occupied by a guard detail of 1 officer and 9 EM.
2. On 19 November, Camp Hammelspring was occupied by about 1,200 to 1,300 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. [redacted] 25X1

5. During the night on 2 November, troops started occupying the east section of the new barracks installations northwest of Vogelsang. The units kept entering the installation throughout 3 November, coming by foot from the direction of Vogelsang. Some troops carried equipment. Other equipment including billeting equipment was shuttled to the installation by trucks [redacted]. About 20 x 120-mm mortars were observed with the troops, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Seven quartering buildings were being occupied. On 4 November, the troops started polishing the quarters and clearing up the entire barracks area. No training was observed. Soldiers of fatigue details stated that rations for the newly arrived troops were picked up in Prenzlau and Oranienburg. On 5 November, a major general wearing gold-bordered black epaulets inspected the newly occupied buildings.
6. On 10 November, the west section of the installation was occupied as previously. The troops engaged exclusively in clearing up of the installation.

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7. Source determined that 25 percent of the construction workers had been dismissed. Others had been transferred to Muertenberg (Stalinstadt). Some workers were still employed in final work on the new buildings. It was still rumored that the construction of more barracks buildings in the woods east of the installation would start within a few weeks.³
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8. Between 27 October and 6 November, reports of heavy artillery pieces were heard from the Templin training grounds during day and night. Source believed that the firing took place at the Hinselpfort-Langersdorf firing ranges. On 31 October and 1 November, firing increased.⁴
9. On 1 November, source determined a cantonment of about 30 one-story buildings, each of a capacity of 20 to 50 men, north of Wulf Lake. The cantonment was vacant. A local resident stated that the installation had been occupied by units from the barracks installation on Cottbus Lake prior to the fall of 1941.⁵
10. In early November, several groups of about 20 soldiers, whom source believed to be recruits and who wore red-bordered black epaulets, were daily seen engaged in drill, and physical training in the barracks installation northwest of Vogelsang. The noise of individual tank engines was heard from the area north and west of the barracks area. On 12 November, source determined 4 or 57-mm AT guns between 2-3/4 tanks in a garage. Thirteen to 17 trucks mounting AA machine guns were seen between two other garages.³

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1. Comment: During the summer months, Camp Hainholzspring was occupied by units of the 6th Gis Div. Local residents stated that, on 18 October, a new unit, which had come from the direction of Trosswitz, entered the installation. It is uncertain whether this unit was identical with the unit of 1,200 to 1,300 troops allegedly stationed in the camp on 19 November.

2. Comment: If the information on the type of tanks is correct, the tanks belong to the 25th Tank Div.

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3. Comment: According to previous information by the same source, the occupation of the east section of the new barracks installation started on 20 October. as well as was mentioned in the present report, belong to the 25th Tank Div. It has not been possible to verify this information. The troops with tank insignia are rather safely believed to belong to the 111th Tank Regt of the 25th Tank Div, the presence of which in Vogelsang has been confirmed by documents. However, the medium mortars cannot belong to this unit. It can only be assumed that source either erred or a battalion of the unidentified mortar regiment of the division was also permanently stationed at Vogelsang. However, no other indications for the latter possibility have so far been received. The information on a scheduled construction of additional barracks buildings eastward of the installation appears credible as available information indicates the tendency to permanently station at the training grounds major elements, possibly all units of the 25th Tank Div.

4. Comment: Information in another source, according to which firing practices with tanks and AA machine guns were held in the central section of the training area between 29 October and 2 November, probably accounts for the observations by source of paragraph 8.
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5. [Redacted] Comment. The confinement north of Kuri Lake has been reported for the first time. However, the information is given credit, as the Rutenberg area north of this lake has been continually utilized by the Soviets. It is exercised by units of the 9th Gde Tank Div from Guttstadtitz and the paratroop installation on Castellan Lake.

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